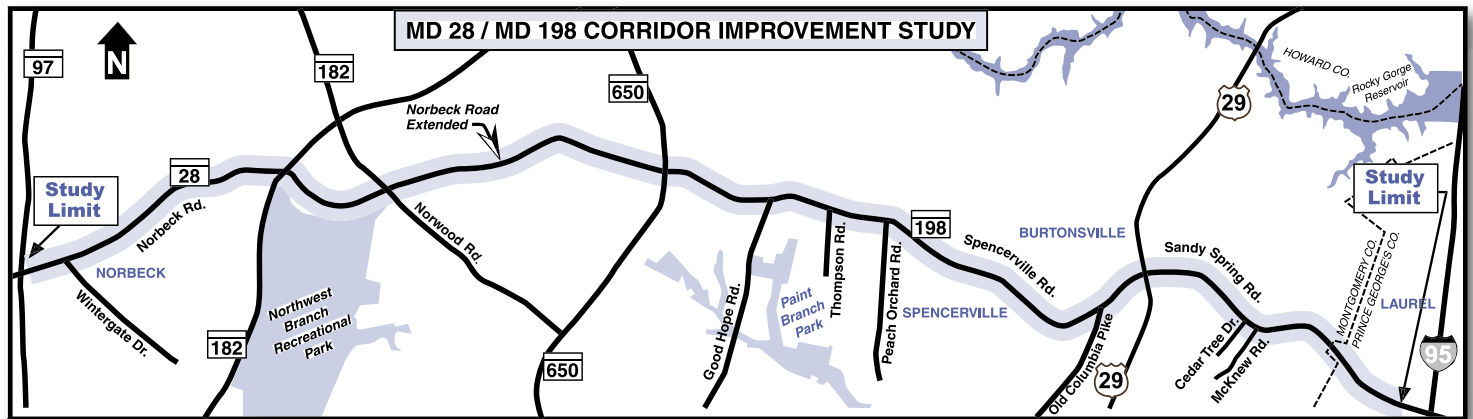


MD 28 / MD 198 Corridor Improvement Study

PROJECT NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2004



Community Input Refines Alternates

Following the Alternates Public Workshop, the study team has had the opportunity to meet with several local citizens groups and elected officials, as well as the project Focus Group to discuss roadway improvements along the MD 28 / MD 198 Corridor. In response to concerns and ideas presented at these meetings, the study team has incorporated or continues to evaluate changes to the alternates under consideration. Some of the details include:

No further consideration of a third through lane east of US 29 in Montgomery County - The study team has projected that existing MD 198 between US 29 and the County Line will operate at an acceptable level of service with some minor side street improvements. This is in response to elected official and citizen concerns about master plan consistency. A six-lane roadway section is being evaluated for MD 198 in Prince George's County west of I-95 consistent with the Subregion I Master Plan.

Shift traffic signal from McKnew Road to Cedar Tree Drive - As called for in the Fairland Master Plan, an evaluation has been conducted of relocating the existing median break and traffic signal from McKnew Road to the Cedar Tree Drive intersection with MD 198. This improvement is among those needed to the side streets in order to maintain acceptable traffic operations along MD 198.

Burtonsville access strategies - Following several meetings with Burtonsville business and property owners, the study team has been working to balance the need to improve safety and traffic operation on MD 198 through Burtonsville with the need to provide access to local businesses. A center turn lane option, locations for median breaks and curb openings are being studied.

Traffic signal/roundabout consideration -

Roundabouts have been studied on MD 28 at Wintergate Drive, and on MD 198 at Thompson Road and Peach Orchard Road. Several requests have been made to consider a roundabout on MD 198 at Good Hope Road. Also, due to citizen requests for traffic signals, analyses at several intersections along the corridor were conducted. It was determined that the existing side street conditions do not warrant installation of traffic signals at this time. Monitoring of conditions will continue to determine whether traffic signals should be provided in the future.

Overview of Alternates

Alternate 1 (No-Build Alternate) - Includes minor improvements as part of normal maintenance and safety improvements.

Alternate 2 (Transportation System Management Alternate) - Consists of spot improvements throughout the corridor that address the most serious concerns at specific locations or segments of roadway.

Alternate 3 (Master Plan Features Alternate) - Improves the MD 28/MD 198 corridor to provide roadway features called for in the local master plans.

Public Hearing

Detailed engineering for the alternates and natural environmental, cultural, socio-economic, and air & noise studies are complete. The results are being summarized for inclusion in the draft environmental document. The results of these studies will be available this Fall prior to a Public Hearing. Details of the Hearing will be mailed to the project mailing list and advertised in local newspapers.

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Next Steps

- Summarize detailed engineering/environmental studies - *Spring 2004*
- Release draft environmental document - *Summer 2004*
- Hold Location/Design Public Hearing - *Fall 2004*
- Evaluate public and agency comments from the Hearing - *Fall 2004*
- Agency concurrence on SHA's Selected Alternate - *Spring 2005*
- Receive approval from FHWA on final environmental document - *Fall 2005*
- Project Planning Complete - *Winter 2006*

Thank You

The study team again thanks you for your interest and participation in the MD 28/MD 198 Corridor Improvement Study.

Information on this and other SHA projects can be obtained at our web site: www.marylandroads.com

Project Planning Team

SHA is committed to keeping the public involved during this study. We want to hear from you and appreciate your questions and comments. If you know someone who would like to be added to the mailing list, or if you do not wish to receive these periodic mailings, please contact the project manager.

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